



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Network on *Echinococcus multilocularis* Minutes of the 9th meeting

**Held on 12 September 2019
WEB-conference**

(Agreed on 30 September 2019)

Participants

- **Network Representatives of Member States (including EFTA Countries):**

Country	Name
Finland	Marja ISOMURSU Antti OKSANEN (observer on a voluntary basis)
Ireland	William BYRNE
Malta	Marino CRISTINA (absent)
United Kingdom	Helen ROBERTS
Norway	Heidi L. ENEMARK (apologies)

- **Hearing Experts**

None

- **European Commission and other agencies:**

Pedro ROSADO-MARTIN (DG SANTE)

Craig SIMPSON (EFTA)

- **EFSA:**

ALPHA Unit (Gabriele ZANCANARO, coordinator):

DATA Unit (PAPANIKOLAOU Alexandra): participated in agenda point "New Data Collection Framework scheme for the collection of *E. multilocularis* data"

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Heidi L Enemark (NO), Ales Breclj (NO)

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes

3. Topics for discussion

3.1. New legal framework

The attention of the participants was drawn on the changes introduced in the Scientific Report following the adoption of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 of 21 November 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs, and repealing Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011.

Based on the new dispositions, EFSA highlighted that Malta did not have to report surveillance data in order to maintain its eligibility to continue applying preventive health measures for the control of *E. multilocularis* infection in dogs entering its territory, but to meet the conditions laid down in Article 4(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 including the submission of evidence to the EC of the absence of the red fox from the territory. For this reason, Malta did not submit any data to EFSA and will not be included in the present and future scientific reports, provided that the conditions remain the same.

3.2. Scientific Assessment

EFSA presented the new draft of the scientific report, including the comments received by the Network members.

The general sections were discussed first: the European Commission contributed in further explaining and clarifying the novelties introduced by the new legislation. No further modifications were necessary.

The scientific sections were discussed, proceeding country by country. No additional major comments were provided by the participants. EFSA encouraged the Finnish Food Authority to publish the scientific evidences generated to assess the sensitivity of the laboratory test. The results from the United Kingdom were discussed in relation to the performance of the laboratory test used in Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom was requested to provide clarifications as regards the performance of that test.

3.3. Working framework

3.3.1. New Data Collection Framework (DCF) scheme for submitting *E. multilocularis* data

EFSA announced the future changes in the data submission process which will affect also the data on *E. multilocularis*. The initiative aims at ensuring a full standardisation of the data across other data collection activities and at avoiding double reporting. For instance, the *E. multilocularis* data are in some cases submitted twice to EFSA, one to the AHAW team (for the annual report) and one to the BIOMO team (for the annual zoonoses report).

EFSA raised the attention also on another data harmonisation and standardisation project called SIGMA (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/data-collection-animal-diseases>).

3.3.2. Microsoft Office 365

EFSA announced the introduction of a new scientific sharing platform based on Microsoft technology. Instructions were given by e-mail

4. Closure of the meeting

EFSA thanked the participants and outlined the next steps and related timing until the publication of the Scientific Report, foreseen between October and November